

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Texas has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. HALL of Texas. 30 full seconds. Now, go ahead.

Ms. GIFFORDS. We have no additional speakers. We're prepared to yield back our time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the remaining time.

(Mr. HALL of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HALL of Texas. I just want to simply say that at a time when we import 60 percent of our oil from OPEC countries and others, we need to be encouraging domestic production of fossil fuels. We have it. We don't have anywhere else to turn.

I just think energy is such a national security issue, not a partisan political issue. We have to move beyond partisan rhetoric and pass a sensible energy legislation that would promote all sources of energy, increase our domestic capacity, reduce the cost of energy, promote technologies to make fossil fuels including coal, clean coal cleaner and more efficient.

This week Democratic House leaders have been scrambling to get energy legislation to the floor before Congress recesses for August, yet the bill they are hoping to pass today doesn't create any new energy and doesn't help meet America's energy needs.

At a time when we import 60 percent of our oil from OPEC countries, we need to be encouraging domestic production of fossil fuels. The Democrats' energy bill doesn't expand our domestic energy supply one drop of oil.

Our economy depends on fossil fuels, yet opponents of oil and gas continue to push legislation to raise taxes on our domestic energy producers and refiners, making American energy more expensive, and making us even more dependent on foreign, unstable regimes.

Bio-fuels and other alternative energy sources have great potential, but are not ready to replace fossil fuels on a large scale in our domestic energy portfolio. As ranking member of the Science and Technology Committee, I believe that one day the investments we make in research and development into alternative energy will make a big difference, but right now Americans need clean, affordable, and abundant energy—and I'm afraid the bill before us today does not advance this goal.

Comprehensive energy solutions must include all sources of energy. Not only should we invest in research and development for technologies that promote renewable and alternative sources of energy, but we should also invest in technologies that make existing energy sources cleaner, more affordable and more efficient. At the same time, we must continue to support the domestic oil and gas industry in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. We cannot turn our backs on the fossil fuels that have made our country what it is today.

Energy is a national security issue—not a partisan political issue. We must move beyond partisan rhetoric and pass sensible energy legislation that promotes all sources of energy, increases our domestic capacity, reduces the cost of energy, and promotes technologies to make fossil fuels, including coal, cleaner and more efficient.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back my time.

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Chairman, I yield back my time as well.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time for the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and yield myself such time as I may consume.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized.

Mr. OBERSTAR. The European community nations have achieved a remarkable milestone. They have achieved a 10 percent mode shift from automobiles to transit. The State of New Jersey has also achieved a mode shift to 10 percent of all travel by transit. If we can make that mode shift nationwide in the U.S., we will save the equivalent of all the oil we import from Saudi Arabia. That's 550 million barrels a year.

The recommendations from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure incorporated in this bill will move us in that direction.

We authorize \$1.7 billion of capital operating funds for transit agencies to reduce fares and expand services, to purchase alternative fuel buses, alternative fuel locomotives, ferries, and refueling facilities.

If the alternative transit program had been continued with vigor, there was a very successful hydrogen bus initiative that produced vehicles that operated in Santa Barbara, California, that I had the privilege of going out there to ride in those buses. We can achieve those goals without a Manhattan Project or without a man on the moon project because we have the technology already in hand.

Our legislation also increases the Federal share for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement funds to increase incentives for States to use those funds. We authorize funding for the purchase of green locomotives and track improvements for short-line railroads.

The private line, private sector rail companies have had great success with their green goat switch engines in makeup yards for freight rails, producing vastly less particulates and CO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> in those areas which are very close to habited communities that feel mostly the effect of the noise and the air pollution, vast reductions in already existing technology with no loss in efficiency but also savings of cost.

We also authorize \$2 billion in loan guarantees to establish a short sea shipping transportation program which would be very beneficial on the Great Lakes, would help reduce the congestion in Chicago, and would improve the coastwise trade on the east, west and gulf coast regions of the United States.

We also require GSA, General Services Administration, to install energy-efficient light bulbs in Federal buildings, including to photovoltaic systems. We require the Department of Energy to construct a sun wall on its headquarters. Actually, that building was constructed, the south wall, with

no windows or doors to accommodate solar application. We reported that bill early in the work of our committee with the support of our ranking member, Mr. MICA, and enthusiastic bipartisan vote in the committee to use money out of the public building fund to build that wall so that at the end of the day the Department of Energy will pump excess electricity into the Pepco grid system and run all of the elevators, escalators, computers, lights, anything that runs on electricity by photovoltaics. We already have technology. We need to do that. Our provisions in this bill will, using what already exists to save energy, reduce costs.

And I just add one further item, and that is on the General Services Administration, our committee has jurisdiction over 366 million of square feet of Federal office space. The electricity bill annually is \$5.8 billion. If we install photovoltaic cells on all those buildings, we can save 90 percent of that cost and save also the consumption of coal and natural gas, whatever it takes to produce the electricity for those buildings.

These are all realistic, within grasp, available technology initiatives that we bring to you in a very practical way.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Florida is recognized.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, actually I'm pleased to be here on a Saturday because we should be here on Saturday, Sunday, Monday and through the entire week to address the issue of energy independence for this Nation. People who drive up to the gas pump want some relief from high energy costs. People who get their bill at home and are struggling to pay that high power bill are being challenged, people on fixed incomes, and also, the country's being held hostage now importing so much fossil fuel.

And this is all supposed to be about climate change. We all want to preserve and protect the climate. We had a little piece of this in the T&I Committee. But actually we could make a big impact, because if you look at the emissions into the atmosphere that are causing global warming and some of the problems, power generation is one of the biggest generators of that pollution and degradation of our environment. And then transportation, all you've got to do is look at the cars and trucks and the use of energy and then polluting our environment and adding to the warming of the climate.

But unfortunately, in our committee markup, Republicans tried to add some real energy policy changes to this bill, and they didn't accept them, the Democrats didn't accept them. For example, Congresswoman THELMA DRAKE from Virginia, she had an excellent amendment to lift some of the limitation on congestion mitigation and air